

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG:MFR

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG

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P R 162227Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 115147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF MAYAGUEZ

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 16.

2. Q. MR. SECRETARY, WAS THERE AT ANY TIME IN THIS  
CRISIS, ANY CHANCE TO RESOLVE IT DIPLOMATICALLY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THERE WAS NO CHANCE DURING THIS  
CRISIS TO RESOLVE IT DIPLOMATICALLY. THAT IS TO SAY, WE  
NEVER RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION, PROPOSITION, THAT WOULD  
HAVE ENABLED US TO EXPLORE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, AND IT  
WAS--WHEN--BY WEDNESDAY EVENING WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY  
REPLY THAT THE PRESIDENT ORDERED THE MILITARY OPERATIONS TO  
BEGIN.

MR. LISAGOR.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR UP ONE MYSTIFYING ASPECT OF THIS:  
WHY DID THE CHINESE RETURN THE NOTE 24 HOURS LATER?  
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AND DID THEY INDICATE AT THE TIME THAT IT HAD GOTTEN  
THROUGH TO THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: IN THIS MATTER THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
CONTENT OF THE NOTE.

BUT I AM ASSUMING THE CHINESE XEROX MACHINES CAN  
REPRODUCE IT WITHIN 24 HOURS.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR RETURNING IT, MR.  
SECRETARY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, A DEGREE OF DISASSOCIATION  
FROM THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS --

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEY ACTUALLY --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: -- A FORMAL DISASSOCIATION. I  
DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THIS, BUT I WOULDN'T BE  
SURPRISED.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IN VIEW OF THE ATTEMPTS AT DETENTE  
WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ARE YOU  
DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR APPARENT--OR WITH THE WAY THEY  
HANDLED THEMSELVES IN THIS SITUATION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE REQUIREMENTS OF RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH SOME OF OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES HAVE TO BE SEEN IN  
A MORE COMPLICATED FRAMEWORK THAN IS OFTEN STATED.

BOTH THE CHINESE AND WE HAVE CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS  
WHICH HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE,  
WHICH WE HAVE REAFFIRMED AND WHICH WE CONSIDER REMAIN  
VALID.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO HAVE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS IN  
DIFFERENT AREAS, AND THERE WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR  
DIFFERENCES.

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THIRDLY, ONE HAS TO KEEP IN MIND IN ASKING OTHER  
COUNTRIES TO PLAY A ROLE, WHAT THEIR REAL POSSIBILITIES  
ARE IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

AND FINALLY, ONE HAS TO LEAVE IT TO THOSE COUNTRIES TO  
PLAY THEIR ROLE, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY -- IF  
THEY CHOOSE TO -- THAT THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

SO ON THE WHOLE, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A USEFUL AREA FOR ME TO COMMENT ON.

3. Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHEN YOU REFERRED TO SIXTY HOURS OF DIPLOMACY, ACTUALLY I AM TOLD THERE WAS FIGHTING WHICH RAN THROUGH THIS WHOLE SEQUENCE -- THAT THERE WAS FIGHTING THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH, THERE WAS SOME SHOOTING AT AMERICAN VESSELS THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH. THE CAMBODIANS SAY THAT WE BEGAN STRAFING AT DAWN ON THE 13TH. SO THERE WAS, BY BOTH SIDES' ACCOUNTS, EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T MATCH -- THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SHOOTING ALL DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE DIPLOMACY WAS BEING ATTEMPTED. COULD WE HAVE A BETTER BREAKDOWN ON THAT POSSIBLY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: FOR ABOUT SIXTY HOURS WE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE SHIP. WE MADE IT VERY CLEAR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING -- THE PRESIDENT IN HIS STATEMENT -- THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT WERE SENT TO WHOEVER WE THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE A POSSIBILITY OF REACHING THE CAMBODIANS-- AND IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS THAT I MADE ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY -- WE MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT WE INSISTED ON THE RELEASE OF THE SHIP AND THE MEN.

THEN WE TOOK COLLATERAL ACTIONS TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MOVE THE MEN AND TO SPEED UP THE PACE OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE AMERICAN MESSAGE REACHED THE CAMBODIANS? AND IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, WHAT GIVES YOU THAT --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, I AM POSITIVE THAT OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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MESSAGE REACHED THE CAMBODIANS BECAUSE WE DELIVERED IT TO THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING, IN ADDITION TO EVERYTHING ELSE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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